

**Deputy Allen and Mary Polkowski**

**ULTIMATE Protection Academy and Indoor Tactical Training Range**

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**Testimony**

**May 23, 2017**

Testimony Tuesday, May 23, 2017

Thank you Mr. Chairman and State Representatives for allowing us to testify today.

As a law enforcement firearm instructor and member of ILEETA, IALEFI, NAFTO and AWSDA, I am a specialist in teaching female officers. Experts agree that women learn differently than men. Too often in my 22 years as a firearm instructor, the first exposure to handguns by a lady is when she is dragged to the shooting range by a boyfriend, husband or family member and handed a large caliber weapon which results in a very unpleasant experience or worse, injury. As a woman I know that attention to detail such as the proper way a lady puts on her hearing protection muffs when she has long hair to properly protect her hearing from gunfire, realizing that size / fit of weapon is important and her gradual introduction to handguns is paramount to safe handling and markswomanship.

When considering concealed carry, how women carry is important.

The law makers with the input of law enforcement back in 2000 had it correct when they included pistol safety training as a requirement of the permit process. Consider how a woman carries her gun as an off duty officer or a citizen, in a concealed carry purse. In gun training, women need to know how to properly carry a firearm to protect child safety. In the case of CPL holder, Shecolby Green, it is my opinion that she only placed her personal protection handgun in her unsecured purse because she had a permit to carry in public. Otherwise it would have been locked up at home. However, she did not use a lockable concealment purse readily available on the internet when her 9 year son reached into that unsecured purse and shot himself in the hand. Training is important, especially for women. Please note that Detroit Police chief James Craig is quoted to the Channel Four News saying: "I do support law-abiding citizens,..., to have CPLs, but I've also indicated in a very strong way the importance of training..." At my training academy, I add the extra information and training women need to keep them and everyone else safe with firearms.

I did not see or hear any convincing evidence during last week's testimony of increased interest of even the most basic of firearm training for carrying a gun in public. In fact, as the owner of my own shooting range, I personally experience the opposite is true. What I hear most often is one of three excuses for the average person interested in carrying a gun in public: first a person would call and would say: "I understand I have to take a pistol safety course in order to get my carry permit; how fast can I get it done and how cheap is the fee?" or 2. "I'm calling just to shoot, I don't want or need any training, I already got my CCW permit" and sometimes adding: "I just want to take (you fill in the blank.....girlfriend, wife, daughter) to the range to shoot my guns, they never shot a gun before"

Carrying a gun in public for personal protection is not about "Women on Target" Programs, hunting or recreational shooting. Even the NRA states in their Personal Protection programs and I quote "watching videos and reading books is no substitute for training under the Tutorage of a competent instructor."

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As a Reserve Officer in two of Michigan's largest law enforcement departments, I have either taught reserve officers firearm handling skills or qualified them annually in state mandated qualifications for the past 11 years. Considering that in 85% of the violent confrontations with officers affecting an arrest or citizens as victims of a violent encounter, it happens at night. MCOLES has mandated incorporating low light qualifying in the annual firearm qualifications in the past several years. Some reserve officers had difficulty passing the course the first time around, yet it is reasonable that in a gun fight you may not get a second chance. How many gun owners practice in low light with their firearms?

I have been in many situations both in the Navy and a reserve officer when guns have been drawn and pointed at me and others. I have experienced including, but not limited to: an active hostage engagement, participated in multiple after hour bar complaints assisting in arrests with suspect detention and transporting those detainees to jail, felony sweeps and CSC parole violator enforcement. It is clear that a person never rises to the occasion; they can only fall to their level of training in a potentially violent encounter. It is understood clearly that we expect our military and our law enforcement to protect us from both enemies foreign and domestic so we as a society require both constant training and qualifications of them so it proven they can safely and effectively do their jobs.

How can a constitutional carry citizen claim not to need any of this? That somehow they are above our military and law enforcement without knowing what it is like to be in a violent encounter with a criminal, insane active shooters or now even terrorist attacks, without training or firearm qualification proof that they can perform defensive shooting under stress in the most adverse conditions?

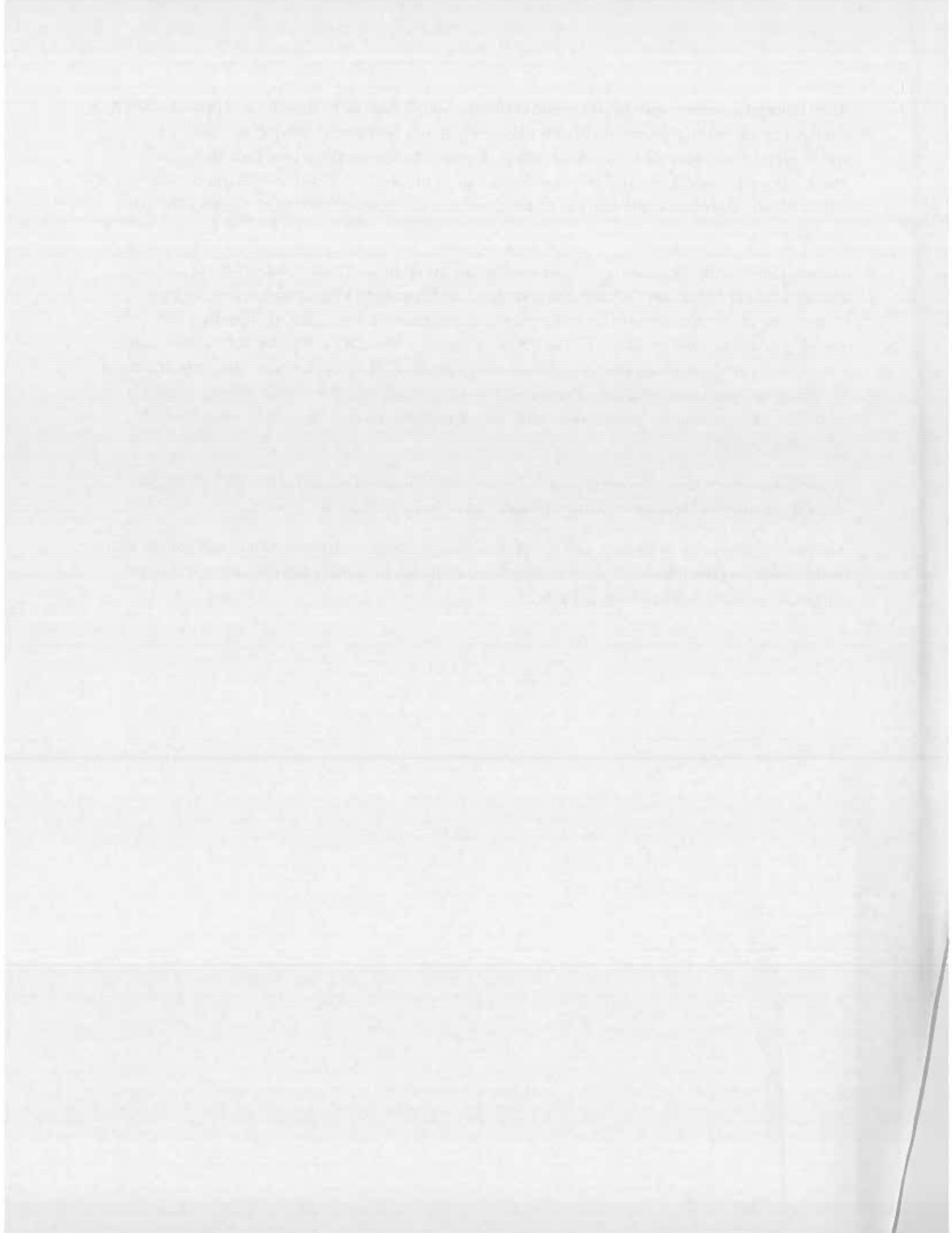
Please consider: the current CPL law only requires one successful completion of a pistol safety course upon application. If a CPL holder took a class in 2001 and renewed it in a timely fashion to keep it current, then that CPL citizen would have only taken one course in the last 16 years! The review of training requirement, by law, states that the applicant "review his original training materials for 3 hours and experience one hour of live fire range time" all on their own by the honor system. No certificate of completion is required. Keep in mind that the original course materials would have contained material of 16 years ago, void of any new laws, updates or tactical improvements in firearm training.

As an officer, I am concerned that the group of citizens who decide not to apply for a permit can carry a handgun concealed on their person by only passing the simple background check of purchasing a handgun on Federal Form #4473 with the simple 12 question survey and the brief BATF background check. However, the CPL application disqualifies an applicant of any one of 28 misdemeanor violations within the last 3 years of application and 45 Misdemeanor violations within the last 8 years prior to the application.

I will conclude by thanking the state legislature that the governor who passed Public Act 122, in 2012 the legal right of a Michigan CPL holder to purchase, possess and use a TASER for personal defense. Tasers have increasingly saved many officers and suspects from injuries by quickly and effectively defusing what may have escalated to a potentially dangerous situation. It is easily to reexamine many CPL citizens use of excess force cases here in Michigan where a CPL holder only carried a firearm without including the legal option of Taser or Pepper Spray; where people either ended up injured, dead or in prison because they did not understand the difference of deadly force verses physical force. Most officers carry both.

In conclusion: we in law enforcement carry guns to protect ourselves and the public with thorough training, firearm qualification and departmental "Use of Force Policies".

Our permit system is working well, lets' not confuse the general public by dividing into two groups: with and without the permit system. No one has proven, at this point, to me, a law enforcement reserve officer, that everyone will be safer in public.



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Report #4

**"To preserve liberty, it is essential that the whole body of the people always possess arms and be taught alike, especially when young, how to use them."**

**Richard Henry Lee**

**American Statesman, 1788**

**Virginia Declaration of Rights (1776)**

**"A declaration of rights made by the representatives of the good people of Virginia, assembled in full and free convention; which rights do pertain to them and their posterity, as the basis and foundation of government." (12 June 1776)**

- Article 13

That a well-regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper, natural, and safe defence of a free State; that standing armies, in time of peace, should be avoided, as dangerous to liberty; and that in all cases the military should be under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power.

**Texas:** A prediction from the Legislative Budget Board shows the number of license applications and renewals through the Texas Department of Public Safety would decline 90 percent in the first year under a constitutional carry law. Dallas News, March 28, 2017

**"As a gun owner and concealed firearm permit holder, I understand the value of the permit, both to firearm owners and to the public at large," Governor Herbert wrote. "As a State, we must exercise extreme care that we not impose undue burdens on the right to bear arms, but I have yet to receive any credible evidence that Utah's current permit process constitutes a hardship."** SALT LAKE CITY — Gov. Gary Herbert has vetoed the constitutional carry bill passed by the Utah Legislature.

**Montana Gov. Steve Bullock (D) vetoed a bill allowing for the carrying of concealed guns without a permit on Thursday. Bullock said in a veto letter that the state's sheriffs may require safety training before granting a concealed-carry permit and can deny permits to people struggling with mental illness. He equated the bill to allowing people to drive cars, fly planes or erect buildings without determining if they are eligible and able to do so.**

Also:

**"While I will fiercely defend the 2nd Amendment rights of our citizens, I cannot support an absurd concept that threatens the safety of our communities by not providing for the**

**basic fundamentals of gun safety or mental health screening,” Bullock wrote. Post**  
**Nation**Katie Zezima February 24 , 2017